

MOUNTAINTOP TO TAP EXHIBITION

3-WEEKS & 200-MILES. EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY OF 12 EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS AND JOURNAL EXCERPTS DOCUMENT THE PATH OF
NEW YORK CITY'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY.

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10 GRAND ARMY PLAZA

DWECK CENTER LOBBY

MARCH 1 – APRIL 30, 2009 EXHIBITION DATES

View the video documentary

***Mountaintop To Tap:
A Journey of Discovery***

and meet the student trekkers

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Dweck Auditorium

*Sponsored by ConEdison, Brooklyn
Vanguard & Brooklyn Public Library*

For additional information or
questions:

www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org

718-230-2100

exhibit@stroudcenter.org



Mountaintop to Tap is a collaborative educational program coordinated by the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Catskill Mountainkeeper, New York Harbor School, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Riverkeeper and the Stroud Water Research Center. Additional information about this project can be found at: www.stroudcenter.org/NYTREK2007

MOUNTAIN TOP → TAP

**A 3-WEEK TREK ACROSS THE NEW YORK CITY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
JULY 7 – 28, 2007**

Since New York City first went beyond its borders in search of clean water almost two centuries ago, it has encountered the animosity of those who live upstream, and it has done much during that time to exacerbate the disconcerting disconnect between the rural residents of the watershed communities and the urban and suburban consumers of the drinking water that comes from mountain springs and meadow streams as much as 125 miles from the city.

It was not until 1997, under the threat of a federal order to build a multi-billion dollar filtration system it could not afford, that the city started to work cooperatively with the upstream communities, local, state and federal agencies, and environmental and other advocacy groups, to produce a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which sought to end the hostilities and to provide a framework for protecting both the water supply and the rights of all the stakeholders. This landmark agreement, which was hammered out in often excruciating negotiations over several years, turned out to be the beginning – not the end – of a critical conversation. It is also one of the best models yet produced for resolving conflicts in a world in which fresh water is an increasingly fragile and fractious commodity over which communities bicker and nations go to war.

To mark the 10th anniversary of this achievement, to focus broad public attention on both the MOA's importance and its vulnerability, and to bring together the disparate peoples of a water system who still don't know each other, trust each other or understand their interdependence, the Stroud Water Research Center, Riverkeeper, New York Harbor School (a public high school in Brooklyn), the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Catskill Mountainkeeper, and other partners organized a trek on which 12 high school students – half from the inner-city Harbor School and half from Sidney High School in rural Delaware County – traced the course of the city's water supply from its source in a Catskill stream to its arrival in New York City.

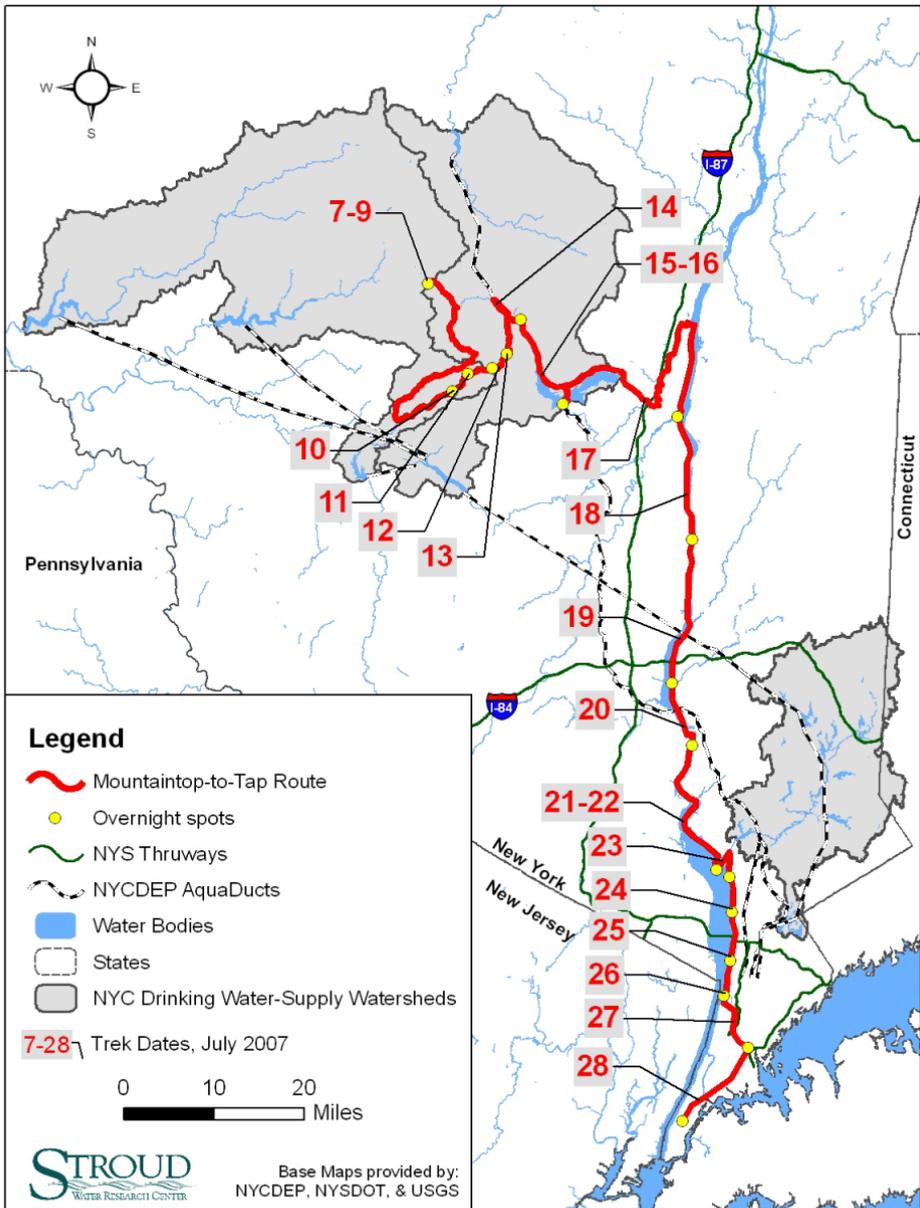
At the most basic level, the 12 students, and the teachers who accompanied them, had a unique wilderness and educational experience, as they traveled on foot, by tube, canoe, and rowboat. But the broader and deeper purpose of the trek was to have the students become the representatives of all the people who live and work throughout the 2000-square-mile watershed. Following the paths of Stroud and other scientists, they tested the water's quality, learned about the critical importance of protecting the watersheds, and acquired the stewardship tools to do so. Over the course of the three-week journey, they met with local residents and officials and took part in media events. They became, in short, the spokespersons for the watershed, representing in their own differences both the diversity and the community of its 9 million people.

They documented their experiences in journals and photographs, which were posted on an interactive website during the trek and have since been shown at exhibits in New York City, the Catskills and the Stroud Center. Bob Caputo, a long-time photojournalist for *National Geographic*, taught the students in a pre-trek workshop, how to take pictures and turn them into a coherent story, and he subsequently helped them select and organize the photos for the exhibits. In addition, Kent Garrett and David Roderick, who between them have won five Emmys and a Peabody award, produced a documentary of the trek for public television.

The 12 students who made this trek presented a unique—and long overdue—perspective on the New York watersheds and the little understood role they play in the life of the city and the lives of its people. From that, we hope will come a greatly improved public understanding of the connection between the sources and the ultimate uses of fresh water, between the disparate parts and peoples of the water system, between those who live in the watersheds and those who live in the city, and between the economics of water distribution and the protection of the places from which the water comes. And from that, finally, will come the recognition that these matters are not unique to New York and its watersheds, but are emblematic of a universal issue that is one of the most important that all of us face in the 21st century.

For more on the trek visit: <https://www.stroudcenter.org/education/nytrek2007/index.shtm>

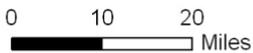
To watch the film visit: <https://www.stroudcenter.org/education/nytrek2007/video.shtm>



Legend

-  Mountaintop-to-Tap Route
-  Overnight spots
-  NYS Thruways
-  NYCDEP AquaDucts
-  Water Bodies
-  States
-  NYC Drinking Water-Supply Watersheds

7-28 Trek Dates, July 2007



Base Maps provided by:
NYCDEP, NYSDOT, & USGS